

FOR HIS
EXCELLENCY
GEN: MONCK.

Good 9th 1657

My Lord,

You are too *Wise*, and *Noble*, to need either a *Direction*, or a *Spur*, where your *Judgement*, or *Honour* lies at Stake : And to tell you, that to make your self the *Happiest Person* in Nature, you must Deliver us from being the most *Miserable People*, is but to speak your own *Thoughts*, and *Purposes*. Yet, such is the *Passion* I have for your *Personal*, and for the *publique Good*, that a *Burthen* lies upon my *Soul*, till I have given some *Testimonie* of my *Respects*, and *Tenderness* both for the *One*, and the *Other*, how *superfluous-soever*, toward a *Judgement*, and *Inclination*, so well *Qualified* for the *Knowledge*, and *Practice*, of what is *Honorable*.

My Lord, We are a *wretched People*, and *Providence* hath put it in your power, to finish all our *Troubles*. The *Eyes* of *Men*, and *Angels* are upon You, and the whole *Nation* courts You as their *Tutelarie Spirit*. Never was any *Action* so *easy*, and so *Glorious* at once, as our *Deliverance*. 'Tis wrought without the *hazzard*, or *expen*ce either of *Blood*, *Time*, or *Treasure*. The *Hearts*, the *Hands*, and *Fortunes* of the *People*, are all at Your *Devotion*. Nay, lest You should submit to be misled by *Popular Applause*, *Ambition*, or anie other *Frailty*; Heaven hath annexed Your *Interest* to Your *Duty*, (forgive the *Language*) You must be *Mad* too, to be *Wicked*, & *Quit* all other *Principles* of *Beneficial Prudence*, with those of *commune Honesty*, and *Conscience*. *Ballance* (my Lord) the main *Accompt*. Heaven and Hell, are the *Difference*. One way, You are sure to be as *Great*, and *Safe*, as *Love*, and *Gratitude* can make You; whereas all other *Acquisitions* are *deceitfull*. A word now of the means to effect our *Quiet*; and that with all due respect to better Reason.

First, In the *Case* of differing *Perswasions*, be pleased to form such an *Expedient*, that all may quietly enjoy, and exercise their opinions, so far as they *Consist* with the word of *God*, and with the *publick Peace*.

Secondly, Appoint an *Aet* of *Oblivion* to be drawn (if you please) as *Comprehensive* of all *Interests*, as care, and skill can make it; and after this, let a *Free Parliament* be called (with this previous *Engagement* imposed upon them) That they shall first secure these two *Particulars*, of *Conscience*, and *Property*, according to the true *Intention* of the *Parties* therein *Concerned*, ere they proceed further; and that they may then apply themselves to other *Debates* at *Liberty*, and settle what *Government* they shall think fit. This I presume not to deliver as the *Arrogant* *Imposition* of a *single Person*; but I do offer it *humble*, as the *sence* of a *Numerous*, and *Sober party*. Some *Mutinous*, and *Peevish Spirits* there are, whom nothing can please, but what displeases all the *World* beside. It were *pittie*, to alter the whole *Frame* of the *Law*, to gratifie the humour of so *Inconsiderable* a part of the *People*. *Changes* are *Slow* and *Dangerous*; *God* and *Truth*, are *Invariable*; We were *well*, till We *shifted*, and never since; having tried all other *Postures* in *vain*; were it not better to attempt That once again, than thus expose our selves to be *Restless* for ever?

My Lord, the Author of this is verie much

Your EXCELLENCIE'S Servant,